

BLAZE ON WATERFRONT

(From Sunday's Advertiser)
Honolulu had a fire last night which might have been a conflagration but for the good work of the department. The Davies warehouse at Kakaia and Halekiau streets somehow ignited and burned on three sides. For contents it had, among other things, kerosene, tar in barrels, kerosene and excelsior packing, shingles, lath and railroad ties were piled against the rear of the building, material belonging to a big lumber yard near by.

The building which caught fire was about 200x200 feet in dimensions. The lumber yard in the rear, running down to Allen street was the property of Lawers & Cooke. The building contained besides the things already listed, an assortment of hardware, mostly cooking utensils, and the supplies of Davies' paint department.

The structure was practically destroyed on the Waikiki side next to Davies' big brick warehouse, but the Ewa side next to Kakaia street is not badly damaged. It was here that the oil was stored. The building and contents were fully insured, said Mr. Swamy of Davies & Co., last night. The value of either the building or contents could not be ascertained as everybody was out enjoying Christmas eve, but the warehouse is estimated to have been worth about \$200 and the loss on the contents is said to be nominal.

County Sheriff Brown, whose men responded as promptly as did the firemen and stretched their fire ropes immediately, last night spoke in the highest terms of the work of the fire department. "It was a chance for a big fire," said he, "and they got it under control in short order. Honolulu's fire department can always be depended upon to control any fire we have here as long as the water does not give out on them."

At 6:52 the alarm of fire was turned in from box 12 corner of Fort and Queen streets and the entire Central station responded at once. The Buford had just docked and the street was full of hacks and automobiles from the Buford and Christmas shoppers. The sight of the fire wagons coming down the street at full tilt looked very metropolitan to the Buford passengers.

Two steamers and a chemical machine came in from the Central station and also two hose wagons. Later the chief turned in "two" call to Palama and the Palama hose wagon came in on the jump. The other steamers and hose wagons were not needed and it seemed as though the department was hardly at work before the one whistle meaning "fire under control" sounded out on the Christmas laden air, much to the relief of the merry townsfolk.

The fire started in the mauka end of the building, probably from spontaneous combustion of the oil. It quickly spread to the excelsior crates in which crockery was packed and in almost no time at all the whole interior of the building was in flames and the corrugated iron sides were red and in places at white heat. Axes were put into immediate use. Two lines of hose were turned into the front and two more into the back. The chemical hose worked on the leanto on the Waikiki side.

There were two sources of danger. One the lumber yard in the rear which caught fire almost immediately and the other the kerosene oil, of which it is said quite a large quantity was stored in the building. Without regard for their lives, the firemen faced the flames, dared an explosion of oil and in fifteen minutes the night was black again, the fire being under control. Shingles were sent flying high in the air by the force of the water played on them. These, with lath and railroad ties were piled right against the iron building and it was a Herculean task to remove the upper ones, tie by tie, and bundle by bundle, to get at the flames below. But it was done almost before the people knew it.

Willing hands helped the firemen handle the hose when they called for "more slack" and men of all grades, high and low, merchants and wharf loafers, grabbed the canvas pipes carrying safety to the town. Into the building the firemen went, the hose so stiff from the pressure that it threw the men almost off their feet. Finally, just in the nick of time, assistant Chief Deering heard a noise and looking up beheld the roof about to collapse. He just had time to warn the men when with a crash the iron roof fell to the floor, but fortunately no one was hurt.

At nine fifty the steamers were all sent back to the station and from that time the hose was attached to the hydrants direct. At ten forty the last vestige of the fire was put out and the firemen returned to get a well earned sleep. As a precaution, however, one line of hose was left attached to the hydrant for the use of the special policeman on watch in case of necessity.

AN ATTACK OF CROUP WARDED OFF.

"Our little girl, two and one-half years old, woke up coughing with the croup one evening recently. We happened to have some of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy on hand and gave her two doses of it. She went back to sleep and woke up next morning without a trace of cold. It is certainly a great medicine," says A. J. Luginbill, editor of Star, Villa Rica, Georgia, U. S. A. An attack of croup can always be warded off by giving this remedy as soon as the croupy cough appears. It has been in use for many years and has never been known to fail. It contains no harmful drug and may be given to the smallest child with perfect confidence. For sale by all dealers and druggists. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.

CATHOLICS PROGRESS

The Catholic Orphan Asylum plans are proceeding apace. There is nothing left now but correcting slight errors in the papers and the deeds will be signed by which \$2500, will be paid to W. R. Castle for 67 acres of the finest of Kalia land. As soon as the papers are completed, P. C. Jones will give the necessary permission for the construction of a road along that part of his land adjoining makai of Catholic reservation. This will enable the Catholics to have their road on the same side of the stream as their land and will therefore save crossing the stream and reaching Kalia road by the present route in use.

The tract is a large one but the Bishop believes in being prepared for the future. The land is very fertile and well-provided at the lower end, some \$2000 having been spent by the present owners in setting out all sorts of fruit trees and otherwise improving the property. There are on the place coffee trees, bananas, peach trees, plums, pineapples and "haole mello," a tree bearing mello. It is said that the property will produce anything that will grow in the Hawaiian Islands on a small farm and the orphans will be given an opportunity to learn practical agriculture as well as to acquire book knowledge. A dairy farm will be run as well as a vegetable farm, fruit orchards and plantations, the soil being very deep.

On the upper side is an excellent quarry from which stone can be obtained for all the buildings wanted as well as for roads. The property runs from the center of the Kalia stream clear to the top of the mountain on the Waikiki side of the valley. The tract is on the opposite side of the stream from Dr. Huddy's place and just mauka and Waikiki of the Allen Herbert property.

At the present time there are on the place but a couple of cottages occupied by Portuguese caretakers. There are no leases now in force on the property, so that it will be possible to enter into full possession as soon as deeds are signed.

The plan will be to go slowly, but as the funds come in and the situation warrants there will be built a system of houses for the various uses to which the land will be put. Just what will be done first is not yet determined. The federation of the Catholic societies, however, have had a meeting and agreed to contribute to the fund for the purpose of erecting the buildings and building the road and making the other improvements. Fifty thousand dollars will not cover the ultimate plan which is being laid out so that what is done will be along a carefully prepared schedule, so that when all the buildings are up the whole will be symmetrical.

CATHOLIC BOARDING HOUSE.

The Catholics are not to stop with the building of an orphan asylum. Plans are under way, in fact were nearly perfected before the Bishop made his pilgrimage to Rome, by which the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts will proceed to the erection of a ladies' boarding school mauka of the fertilizer works and fronting on King street. They bought some months ago a tract comprising some seven or eight acres, formerly belonging to Max Schlemmer, the king of Laysan Island.

The Bishop and the Sisters have very carefully made plans, on the details of which the Bishop is even now very busily engaged, which will add to Honolulu's school facilities in a very marked degree and give the sisters a school as well-situated almost as the great Kamehameha schools.

The Sisters have long wanted to remove their school from the city to the suburbs. It is a much better place for boarding pupils and in every way superior for school and living purposes to a city location. They are, therefore, more than delighted that the hope of their hearts is about to be realized.

CAPTAIN YOUNG NOT REPRIMANDED

It would appear that the press cablegram stating that Captain Lucien Young, U. S. N., was to be reprimanded as a result of his courtmartialing for the Bennington disaster had no basis of truth.

Judge George D. Gear, who was captain Young's counsel at the courtmartial, speaking to an Advertiser reporter last night, denounced the message as a fake.

"It is impossible that the verdict should have been known," Judge Gear said.

"The findings of the thirteen members of the court—the admiral and twelve captains—are secret. They were sealed up at the close of the investigation and sent to Washington."

"There the findings are reviewed by the Judge Advocate General and the Secretary of the Navy, and finally passed over to President Roosevelt. They are now in the hands of the President."

"Whatever the verdict, if approved, the Secretary of the Navy would be the first one to announce it."

"There has also been some talk of a retrial. This is nonsense. Under the Navy regulations there can be no retrial."

"The Washington officials have power to disapprove the findings of the court. If disapproved the verdict would be referred back to the court for amendment in accordance with the views of the supreme authorities. There can be no retrial."

HONOLULU'S NEW ARMY POST



Substructures Awaiting The Carpenter's Attention.

Twenty minutes' ride by trolley car from Fort street to a plateau overlooking beautiful Kalia bay, brings one to the place where Uncle Sam is building a new army post. Ten months' hence, the buildings, twenty-eight in number, will have been erected. The government will then begin the improvement of the broad, fertile and productive acreage comprising the Kahauiki reservation, and in time beautiful lawns, fine trees, shrubbery and plants will adorn the post and transform it into one of the most attractive in the country. It will certainly be one of Honolulu's show places. And all this activity in war department circles is in the section of Honolulu known as Kahauiki, on the outskirts of Kalia and close to Moanalua, Mr. Damon's fine country estate.

A small body of men is working out there now on the foundations of the buildings. These are of concrete. The grounds fairly bristle with concrete columns, some standing five feet above the surface, and they are now awaiting the carpenters, who are to raise the superstructures of wood upon them.

The stables are the most advanced, the woodwork already being well up. Some idea can now be gained of the manner in which the grounds are to be laid out. The buildings surround a parade ground in the form of an ellipse which opens out on the government road and faces toward Kalia bay. In fact, the post at Kakaia will possess one of the finest parade grounds in the United States.

H. H. Burrell, the superintendent, a member of the firm of the Burrell Construction Co., of Oakland, Cal., is an active worker, and gets the best of labor out of those under him. Mr. Burrell is a builder of American army posts, and that at Kahauiki is his seventh, the others being three at Puget Sound, one at Fort Wright, one at Fort Baker and one at Fort Whipple. He has been in the business of contracting for about a quarter of a century, and ranged in his work from South America to Canada. In Panama and Salvador he has done contract work of all kinds, one of the features of which was the building of a 424 feet single-span bridge across the Lempa river in Panama.

His old foreman, W. G. Chalmers, who has been with him for many years, has just arrived from Portland, and is now in full charge of work under the contractor. He is assisted by Frank Betters of Honolulu, as well as Mr. Young, G. H. Childs and Wm. Tanderford, also old foremen on the Coast under Mr. Burrell. The latter thinks that with this force he has a splendid nucleus for his working crew.

Mr. Burrell says that the work on the army post is of more importance to Honolulu people than at first appears. Aside from the payrolls of the company which run up into the thousands of dollars per month, the firm has contracted with local concerns for a very large proportion of the materials used in construction, and as yet it has no complaint to make about the time of delivery, which speaks well for the merchants.

Work was started on September 15. No considerable force was used until about October 15 when the excavating and concreting was started, and at the present time, of the twenty-eight buildings to be erected, all of the excavations for the foundations have been completed as well as the concreting work on the stable, wagon shed, workshop, forage storehouse, two barracks, buildings, two lavatories, mess hall and kitchen. The latter lot of five buildings constitute the complete quarters for two companies of troops. Besides these the concrete foundations are laid for the two non-commissioned officers' quarters, as well as the foundations or footings for five of the officers' quarters and the administration building are completed.

The average number of laborers employed since October 15 has been about 50.

The carpenter work is under way on the stable. The bark Gerard Tobey, arriving Friday and the bark Olympic, on the way, have big cargoes of lumber for the post. There is also a consignment of iron work en route. It seems to be the policy of the government to protect all of the stores, as well as their prisoners by iron grills set into the door and window openings. These two buildings will be constructed entirely of concrete.

There has been received for the work, outside the Tobey's cargo, about 1,000,000 feet of lumber. By next week it is expected that the contractor will put to work all the carpenters on this island, applications from eighty-six being on file in his office.

The contract for erecting the buildings at Kahauiki is \$160,000. The general design of the buildings is one well adapted for a tropical climate. The plans of each building are to be enclosed in mosquito-proof bronze netting. The interior finish is to be the same as that obtaining in other posts on the mainland.

The stable, forage storehouse, workshop, etc., are somewhat apart from the other buildings, as are also the hospital and a smaller building, which are located on the makai side of the road. The administration building is at the top of the ellipse, and the commandant's house adjoins it. The grounds are designed to take in a duplicate set of barracks, lavatories and officers' quarters.

Mr. Burrell has his office on the grounds, and for convenience's sake has had a cottage built nearby where he and Mrs. Burrell will reside until the post is completed. They are cordially welcomed, and for the benefit of the feminine sex interested in the army post, it may be said that the first dinner party in "Kahauiki post" has already been given, Mrs. Burrell having been the hostess on Wednesday evening.

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Vanilla Planter Edwards Challenges Mr. Kotinsky

Vanilla-Park Estate, Napoopoo, Hawaii, Dec. 15, 1905.
Editor Advertiser: In your issue of the 5th inst., under the heading "Deadly Plant Blight Discovered in Kona," certain allegations are made, which, if allowed to pass unchallenged, may have a pernicious effect on more than one of the industries—other than sugar—to which attention is being given in this locality.

The article is, presumably, a resume of an official report made by Mr. Kotinsky—the outcome of his recent visit to Kona. I quote the following: "Mr. Kotinsky found both the 'guava scale' and 'green bug' infesting some vanilla plants and lime trees there." (Mr. E. H. Edwards' vanilla plantation.)

With regard to Mr. Kotinsky finding either guava scale or green bug on my vanilla, I give the assertion an unqualified denial.

When in correspondence with that gentleman, prior to his visit, I told him of a discoloration on the leaves which was new to me, and which was causing me some anxiety. This I pointed out to him on his visit; but it is as distinct from guava scale or green bug as "chalk is from cheese."

I have since learned that the same blemish on the leaves is to be found on vanilla vines growing in Honolulu. In another paragraph it is stated: "It was fairly established that the pest had come on vanilla vines from Fiji."

It would be interesting to learn upon what hypothesis this conclusion had been "fairly established."

When Mr. Kotinsky visited this estate, he found: a little green bug on three small lime trees that I brought with me from Fiji three years ago; a great deal of the same bug on a fairly large orange tree that had been planted before I went to those islands; and none of it on the vanilla—nor did he find any in Mr. Wood's vanilla—the

only other planter who has imported vanilla vines from that source. This being the case, to arrive at the conclusion that the green bug had "come on vanilla vines from Fiji," is a species of logic foreign to my education, and difficult for the layman to understand.

Presumably to support the deduction, it is said I "uprooted and burned all the infested trees and plants."

I did uproot and burn the orange and lime trees, but my vanilla plants are of too great value to be consigned to the flames, unless there be cogent reasons for doing so.—Q.E.D.

There is also allusion in the same article to the green bug having been found on coffee trees. If such be the case, Mr. Kotinsky kept the knowledge to himself—as he did not mention it to any one of the planters with whom he came in contact.

It is not in my province to take up cudgels on behalf of those interested in this culture—they are well able to look after their own interests—but I can not refrain from saying, that to attribute the destruction of coffee in Ceylon to the green bug, is entirely erroneous.

In conjunction with my brother planters, I fought the disease which "wiped out the coffee industry in Ceylon" for nearly fifteen years. When I left that island—early in the eighties—the cultivation of coffee on nearly two-thirds of the estates had been abandoned. It was not until 1887, that Doctor Trimen, the Curator of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya, Ceylon, reported on the "green bug"—naming it, *Lecanium Viride*.

Asking you to give my refutation of the existence of this "deadly plant blight" on the vanilla vines in Kona, the same publicity that has been accorded the article that has necessitated it, I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,
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